

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 1, 2, 4-6, and 8-12 and ADD new claim 13 in accordance with the following:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the bar code reader comprising:
 - a read unit that reads a bar code attached to an article, and outputs bar code information corresponding to the read bar code;
 - a term information acquisition unit that acquires term information included in the bar code information;
 - a term expiration check unit that ~~checks~~ calculates whether the term of the article has expired based on the term information; and
 - a notification unit that notifies that the term of the article has expired upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.
2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The bar code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a timer unit that keeps record of a present date time, wherein the term expiration check unit ~~checks~~ calculates whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the present date time with the term information, wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to time error.
3. (ORIGINAL) The bar code reader according to claim 1, further comprising a transmission unit that transmits the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination by the term expiration check unit that the term of the article has expired.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The bar code reader according to claim 2, further comprising a ~~date time~~ setting unit that sets a ~~date time in~~ of the timer unit using a ~~date time~~ setting bar code.

5. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bar code read control method applied to a bar code reader having an arrangement to communicate with a host apparatus in a POS system, the method comprising:

reading a bar code attached to an article, and outputting bar code information corresponding to the read bar code by using a bar code reader;
acquiring term information included in the bar code information;
~~checking~~ calculating whether a term of the article has expired based on the term information, the ~~checking~~ calculating being performed by the bar code reader; and
notifying that the term of the article has expired upon determination that the term of the article has expired.

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 5, further comprising acquiring a present date time from a timer unit,

wherein the ~~checking~~ calculating comprises:
setting a length of time as time error information, and ~~includes checking whether the term of the article has expired based on a comparison of the~~
comparing a present date time with the term information, ~~wherein the term information is set by giving consideration to~~ and considering the time error.

7. (ORIGINAL) The method according to claim 5, further comprising transmitting the bar code information to the host apparatus upon determination that the term of the article has expired.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 6, further comprising setting the present date time in the timer unit using a date time setting bar code.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bar code reader for a POS system, the bar code reader comprising:

a term expiration check unit that ~~checks~~ calculates whether a term of an article has expired based on a comparison of a present time with term information; and
a notification unit that notifies a remote apparatus that the term of the article has expired.

10. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The bar code reader according to claim 9, further comprising a timer unit that keeps a record of a present date time, and the comparison considers a settable ~~wherein the term expiration check unit checks whether the term of the article has~~

~~expired based on a comparison of the present date with the term information, wherein the comparison is adjusted for time error.~~

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A bar code read control method applied to a bar code reader communicating with a remote apparatus in a POS system, the method comprising:
~~checking~~ calculating whether a term of an article has expired based on a comparison of a present time with term information, the ~~checking~~ calculating being performed by the bar code reader; and
notifying the remote apparatus that the term of the article has expired.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method according to claim 11, further comprising keeping a record of a current date time and ~~determining~~ setting a time error, wherein the comparison is adjusted for the time error.

13. (NEW) The bar code reader, according to claim 1, the term expiration check unit comprising:
a controller calculating the term expiration, and
a memory connected to the controller and storing time error information used by the controller in the calculation of the term expiration.